LOCAL WORLD

Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street,
Kensington, London, W8 5TT

T +44 (0)20 3615 2824
W www.localworld.co.uk

Registered office in
England No. 08290481

Registered address:
PO Box 10177,
50 St George Street,
Leicester LE1 8ED

Local World Annual Report to IPSO

Introduction

Local World was incorporated on 7 January 2013 following the merger between Northcliffe Media and Iliffe News and Media. The group comprises:

- 16 daily titles
- 37 paid weeklies
- 30 free weeklies
- 82 websites

Our titles cover 23% of the UK's population area and are based in England and Wales.

A full list of Local World's print titles and websites is attached to this document – see Appendix.

Responsible person

Graham Judge, Company Secretary

Our editorial standards

All Local World editorial staff are required to operate according to the standards of the Editors Code of Practice.

The editorial Code of Practice adopted by the Industry has been accepted by the Company as the basis for its policy in maintaining high professional and ethical standards and attention to this is highlighted in individuals' terms of employment, including any amendments made thereto from time to time.

Each editor, who is legally responsible for the content of his newspapers and websites, is responsible for ensuring that Company policy, in this and other respects, is observed. He/she is the arbiter of any uncertainties arising from the practical application of the Code.

This policy is reinforced in the company's Ethics and Behaviour policy which is distributed to all employees via the Employee Handbook. The relevant section is referenced below:

> **ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY**
> **This policy should be read in conjunction with the 'Employee Code of Conduct'**
> **<u>Scope</u>**
> **The Local World Ethical Behaviour Policy will cover five fundamental principles:**
> - **Integrity**
> - **Objectivity**

LOCAL WORLD

Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street,
Kensington, London, W8 5TT

T +44 (0)20 3615 2824
W www.localworld.co.uk

Registered office in
England No. 08290481

Registered address:
PO Box 10177,
50 St George Street,
Leicester LE1 6ED

- **Professional competence and due care**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Professional behaviour**

The following safeguards are in place to ensure Local World acts in an ethical manner:

- **Internal – policies and controls, leadership, culture**
- **External – professional standards, continuing professional development, legal and financial regulation, Independent Press Standards Organisation**

There are considerable risks both to a company's reputation and of sanctions (both financial and through increased regulation) when ethical codes are broken. Trust between employer and employee can break down.

Local World has established an ethical framework which employees can operate within and an effective mechanism to deal with any ethical dilemmas they may face. A resolution process is also in place to ensure that any ethical issues can be resolved.

Ethics within Editorial

All editorial staff operate within the Editors' Code of Practice set out by the Independent Press Standards Organisation.

All our journalists have a duty to maintain the highest professional standards. The Code sets the benchmark for those ethical standards, protecting both the rights of the individual and the public's right to know. It is the cornerstone of the system of self-regulation to which the industry has made a binding commitment.

It is essential that an agreed code be honoured not only to the letter but in the full spirit. It should not be interpreted so narrowly as to compromise its commitment to respect the rights of the individual, nor so broadly that it constitutes an unnecessary interference with freedom of expression or prevents publication in the public interest.

It is the responsibility of editors and publishers to apply the Code to editorial material in both printed and online versions of publications. They should take care to ensure it is observed rigorously by all editorial staff and external contributors, including non-journalists, in printed and online versions of publications.

Editors should co-operate swiftly with the Independent Press Standards Organisation (the regulator) in the resolution of complaints. Any publication judged to have breached the Code must publish the adjudication in full and with due prominence agreed by the Commission's Director, including headline reference to the Regulator.

Our complaints handling process

LOCAL WORLD

Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street,
Kensington, London, W8 5TT

T +44 (0)20 3615 2824
W www.localworld.co.uk

Registered office in
England No. 08290481

Registered address:
PO Box 10177,
50 St George Street,
Leicester LE1 6ED

Editorial complaints are recorded locally by the Editors and records are submitted to Graham Judge, Company Secretary, Local World.

Each Local World newspaper and website provides detailed information on terms and conditions, as well as house rules relating to website contributors, detailing the code of conduct expected. The titles also carry contact information for submission of complaints.

Training process

Training for all journalists is handled in-house by senior editors, at LW group seminars or through industry-recognised external courses. Special regard is given to changes in the law governing our industry and guidelines issued by organisations such as IPSO. All staff are updated and reminded of their responsibilities immediately on notification.

All of our trainee journalists are trained in tandem with the NCTJ, leading up to the NQJ examination, 18 months after joining the company. They have fortnightly copy clinics with the editor and complete a portfolio which denotes that they have completed 18 different aspects of reporting. They are mentored by a senior member of staff.

Furthermore, all new or inexperienced journalists attend monthly meetings with senior managers to review their accuracy, knowledge and behaviour in their roles. Training in the handling and dealing with social media is of particular importance.

A full copy of complaints received by Local World between 8 September 2014 and 31 December 2014 is attached, together with a list of any incidents which have been ruled on by IPSO's Complaints Committee.

Pre Publication Guidance

Notices and warnings received from IPSO are distributed to the relevant editorial staff as soon as possible, if received centrally.

However, Local World's business model delegated authority and decision-making to local publishing centres, with local editors and publishers being responsible for making editorial and business decisions. It is likely, therefore, that any notices emanating from IPSO would be sent to, and received by, the relevant local centre.

Our expectation is that local editors will take IPSO notices into account if relevant to one of their intended articles.

Story Verification

LOCAL WORLD

Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street,
Kensington, London, W8 5TT

T +44 (0)20 3615 2824
W www.localworld.co.uk

Registered office in
England No. 08290481

Registered address:
PO Box 10177,
50 St George Street,
Leicester LE1 8ED

Local World expects its staff to verify potential stories as fully as reasonably possible. Each centre's Newsdesk reviews potentially contentious stories in the first instance. All journalists at whatever level know that it is their responsibility to ensure that the provenance of all material is good, and it has been obtained lawfully and in accordance with the Code.

If doubts still exist as to the veracity or provenance of a story, the News Editors consult their Editors/Deputy Editors, as appropriate, for guidance. They do so because they know that the accuracy and authenticity of stories is ultimately the responsibility of the Editors.

It goes without saying that we expect our journalists to seek comment from the subjects of contentious stories, unless there are good reasons for not doing so.

Local World retains the services of specialist external solicitors. Our principal legal advisor has some 25 years' experience of advising the regional press in general, and of advising Local World and Northcliffe Media in particular. Our Editors/News Editors are encouraged to seek legal and Code advice from them whenever appropriate. This is because Local World's culture is that we prefer to prevent legal and IPSO complaints in the first place, rather than having to deal with them
after publication.

Graham Judge
Company Secretary

11 September 2015

Publication	Name of Editor	Date reported to IPSO	Complainant	Outcome	Notes
Derby Telegraph	Neil White	[redacted]	[redacted]	Rejected	Complaint fell outside IPSO's remit.
Hull Daily Mail	Jamie Macaskill (Deputy Editor	[redacted]	[redacted]	Closed	Reponded to the complaint, but it was closed after complainant did not respond within deadline set by IPSO.
Bedfordshre on Sunday	Sarah Cox	[redacted]	[redacted]	Closed	Complainant did not pursue original complaint so file was closed.
Sevenoaks Chronicle	Roger Kasper	[redacted]	[redacted]	No investigation	IPSO began preliminary investigation but file was closed after complainant failed to respond to IPSO
The Sentinel	Martin Tideswell	[redacted]		Dismissed	
Nottingham Post	Mike Sassi	[redacted]	[redacted]	Dismissed	
Hull Daily Mail	Jamie Macaskill (Deputy Editor	[redacted]	[redacted]	Closed	Complaint withdrawn by complainant after direct discussions with the paper about the complaint.
Nottingham Post	Mike Sassi	[redacted]	[redacted]	No investigation	No action taken by IPSO, merely forwarded the complaint on an informal basis
Leicester Mercury	Kevin Booth	[redacted]	[redacted]	Dismissed	
South Wales Evening Post	Jonathan Roberts	[redacted]		On hold	This complaint relates to an incident in which an individual was accused [redacted]. The individual involved [redacted] and the complaint is on hold [redacted]
Essex Chronicle	Paul Dent-Jones	[redacted]	[redacted]	Dismissed	Article complaint about was published on 19th December, complaint considered by IPSO Complaints Committee on 18th
Nottingham Post	Mike Sassi	[redacted]	[redacted]	No investigation	No action taken by IPSO, merely forwarded the complaint on an informal basis

LOCAL WORLD

83 WEBSITES

Ashbourne News	www.ashbournenewstelegraph.co.uk
Ashford Herald	www.ashfordherald.co.uk
Bath Chronicle	www.bathchronicle.co.uk
Beds on Sunday	www.bedfordshire-news.co.uk
Black Country Bugle	www.blackcountrybugle.co.uk
Blackmore Vale	www.blackmorevale.co.uk
Boston Target	www.bostontarget.co.uk
Brentwood Gazette	www.brentwoodgazette.co.uk
Bristol Post	www.bristolpost.co.uk
Burton Mail	www.burtonmail.co.uk
Cambridge News	www.cambridge-news.co.uk
Cannock Mercury	www.cannockmercury.co.uk
Canterbury Times	www.canterburytimes.co.uk
Carmarthen Journal	www.carmarthenjournal.co.uk
Central Somerset Gazette	www.centralsomersetgazette.co.uk
Cheddar Valley Gazette	www.cheddarvalleygazette.co.uk
Cleethorpes People	www.cleethorpespeople.co.uk
Cornish Guardian	www.cornishguardian.co.uk
Cornishman	www.cornishman.co.uk
Crawley News	www.crawleynews.co.uk
Croydon Advertiser	www.croydonadvertiser.co.uk
Derby Telegraph	www.derbytelegraph.co.uk
Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser	www.dorkingandleatherheadadvertiser.co.uk
Dover Express	www.dover-express.co.uk
East Lindsey Target	www.eastlindseytarget.co.uk
Ely News	www.ely-news.co.uk
East Grinstead Courier	www.eastgrinsteadcourier.co.uk
Essex Chronicle	www.essexchronicle.co.uk
Exeter Express & Echo	www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk
Folkestone Herald	www.folkestoneherald.co.uk
Frome Standard	www.somersetstandard.co.uk
Gloucester Citizen	www.gloucestercitizen.co.uk
Gloucestershire Echo	www.gloucestershireecho.co.uk
Grantham Target	www.granthamtarget.co.uk
Great Barr Observer	www.greatbarrobserver.co.uk
Grimsby Telegraph	www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk
Harlow Star	www.harlowstar.co.uk
Hertfordshire Mercury	www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk
Herts & Essex Observer	www.hertsandessexobserver.co.uk
Hull Daily Mail	www.hulldailymail.co.uk
Kent & Sussex Courier	www.kentandsussexcourier.co.uk
Leek Post & Times	www.leekpostandtimes.co.uk
Leicester Mercury	www.leicestermercury.co.uk
Lichfield Mercury	www.lichfieldmercury.co.uk

Lincolnshire Echo	www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk
Llanelli Star	www.llanellistar.co.uk
Luton on Sunday	www.lutononsunday.co.uk
Maidstone & Medway News	www.maidstoneandmedwaynews.co.uk
North Devon Journal	www.northdevonjournal.co.uk
North Somerset Mercury	www.northsomersetmercury.co.uk
Northampton Herald & Post	www.northamptonheraldandpost.co.uk
Nottingham Post	www.nottinghampost.com
Nuneaton News	www.nuneaton-news.co.uk
oneMK	www.onemk.co.uk
Plymouth Herald	www.plymouthherald.co.uk
Quirker	www.quirker.co.uk
Retford Times	www.retfordtimes.co.uk
Scunthorpe Telegraph	www.scunthorpetelegraph.co.uk
Sevenoaks Chronicle	www.sevenoakschronicle.co.uk
Shepton Mallet Journal	www.sheptonmalletjournal.co.uk
Sleaford Target	www.sleafordtarget.co.uk
Somerset Guardian	www.somersetguardian.co.uk
South Wales Evening Post	www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk
South West Business	www.southwestbusiness.co.uk
Staffordshire Life	www.staffordshirelife.co.uk
Staffs Newsletter	www.staffordshirenewsletter.co.uk
Stoke Sentinel	www.stokesentinel.co.uk
Stroud Life	www.stroudlife.co.uk
Surrey Mirror	www.surreymirror.co.uk
Sutton Coldfield Observer	www.suttoncoldfieldobserver.co.uk
Tamworth Herald	www.tamworthherald.co.uk
Thanet Gazette	www.thanetgazette.co.uk
The Advertiser	www.theadvertiserstevenage.co.uk
Tiverton Gazette	www.middevongazette.co.uk
Torquay Herald Express	www.torquayheraldexpress.co.uk
Uttoxeter Advertiser	www.uttoxeteradvertiser.co.uk
Walsall Advertiser	www.walsalladvertiser.co.uk
Wells Journal	www.wellsjournal.co.uk
West Briton	www.westbriton.co.uk
Western Daily Press	www.westerndailypress.co.uk
Western Gazette	www.westerngazette.co.uk
Western Morning News	www.westernmorningnews.co.uk
Your Thurrock	www.yourthurrock.com

www.localworld.co.uk

LOCAL WORLD

COMBINED PRINT PORTFOLIO

16 DAILY TITLES

Bristol Post
Burton Mail
Cambridge News
Derby Telegraph
Gloucestershire Echo
Grimsby Telegraph
Hull Daily Mail
Leicester Mercury
Nottingham Post
Nuneaton News
South Wales Evening Post
Stoke The Sentinel
The Gloucester Citizen
The Plymouth Herald
Western Daily Press
Western Morning News

2 METRO FRANCHISES

Metro - Bristol
Metro - East Midlands

14 OTHER

Other publications including magazines

37 PAID WEEKLIES

Ad Mag - East Midlands
Ashbourne News Telegraph
Bath Chronicle
Black Country Bugle
Brentwood Gazette
Carmarthen Journal
Cornish Guardian
Dorking & Leatherhead Advertiser
Essex Chronicle
Exeter Express & Echo (bi-weekly, Mon & Thu)
Herts & Essex Observer
Herts Mercury Series
Grantham Target
Isle of Thanet Gazette
Kent & Sussex Courier
Leek Post & Times
Lincolnshire Echo
Llanelli Star Series
Mid Devon Gazette Series
Mid Somerset Group
North Devon Journal
Retford Gainsborough & Worksop Times
Scunthorpe Telegraph
Sevenoaks Chronicle
Somerset Guardian
Somerset Standard
South Lincs Target Group
Staffordshire Newsletter
Surrey Mirror
Tamworth Herald Series
The Cornishman
Torquay Herald Express
Uttoxeter Advertiser
Wells / Shepton Mallet Journal
West Briton
Western Gazette
Western Morning News on Sunday

30 FREE WEEKLIES

Bristol Observer Group
Bedfordshire on Sunday
Beverley Advertiser
Blackmore Vale Magazine
Cambridge News & Crier
Canterbury Times (Series)
Crawley News
Croydon Advertiser Series
Dover Express Series
East Grinstead Courier & Observer
Ely Weekly News
Folkestone Herald Series
Great Barr Observer
Harlow Star Series
Herts & Lea Valley Star
Huntingdon/St Ives & St Neots News & Crier
Leicester Mail Group
Lichfield Mercury Series
Luton & Dunstable on Sunday
MK News
North Herts Advertiser
North Somerset Mercury
Northampton Herald & Post
Nottingham and Long Eaton Topper
Nuneaton News
Sentinel Advertiser
Stour and Avon Magazine
Stroud Life
Sutton Coldfield Observer
Walsall Advertiser